

Amendments to the Drawings:

Replacement sheets representing formal drawings of Figures 1-20 are being submitted herewith. No amendments to the drawings have been made by way of this paper. Applicants request consideration and approval of the formal drawings by the Examiner.

Enclosures: Replacement Figures 1-20

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in this application. Of these pending claims, Claims 1-31 stand rejected. By way of this paper, Claims 1 and 26 have been amended.

The foregoing amendments and following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding office action, and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

Specification

The paragraph of the specification beginning on page 1, line 4, has been amended to include reference to U.S. Patent No. 6,761,437 B2. The paragraph of the specification beginning on page 7, line 11, has been amended to correct a typographical error. In this paragraph, reference to reservoir 26 has been deleted and replaced by reference to reservoir 28. Applicants request consideration and approval of these amendments to the specification by the Examiner.

Formal Drawings

Formal drawings are being submitted herewith. No amendments to the drawings have been made by way of this paper. Applicants request consideration and approval of the formal drawings by the Examiner.

Nonstatutory Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-11, 17, 18, 22, and 24-30 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, and 40 of U.S. Patent No. 6,761,437 B2. Claims 12-16, 19-21, 23, and 31 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 9, 12, 32, and 36 of U.S. Patent No. 6,761,437 B2 in view of the DeBoer ('154) reference.

In order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, Applicants are enclosing herewith a Terminal Disclaimer and the appropriate fee in order to overcome this rejection. As such, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3, 4-8, 26, 28, 29, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by the Murthy et al. ('214) reference.

Independent Claims 1 and 26 have been amended to more clearly point out that at least a portion of the obstruction overlaps the nozzle bore. Support for this amendment can be found in at least Figures 1, 5-7, 12, 13, 15, and 17-20, and on at least page 7, lines 18 and 19, and page 9, lines 10, 11, and 23-28, of Applicants' invention. Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art cited above does not disclose this feature.

In this regard, Applicants submit that the Murthy et al. ('214) reference discloses a projection or appendage 26 positioned above or into an ink supply region 24 (Figs. 1 and 2; col. 4, lines 24-28). As can be determined from Figures 1 and 2 of the Murthy et al. ('214) reference, no portion of appendage 26 overlaps nozzle holes 18. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection of Claims 1 and 26 is respectfully requested.


The remainder of the claims being dependent from either Claim 1 or Claim 26 are considered patentable for at least the same reasons.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the above amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned in the event that a phone interview will expedite prosecution of this application towards allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 45,287

William R. Zimmerli/amb
Rochester, NY 14650
Telephone: (585) 588-2758
Facsimile: (585) 477-1148

Enclosures: 13 sheets of formal drawings; FIGS. 1-20
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